

GRAPEVINE

Cambridge's Community Paper

No 12

Nov 79

15p

Grapevine Bookshop



GRAPEVINE is an alternative paper produced by people living and working in Cambridge. It aims to cover news which the commercial press, because of its social or political bias, distorts or ignores.

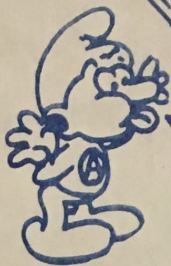
There is no editor - everyone being involved in any parts of the production process they wish to be. The price we charge is determined by our costs, none of us gets paid and we hope to break even each issue. In fact, we regularly make a small loss. (We are not aligned with, or funded by any political party or grouping).

Grapevine depends entirely on support from its readers and we always welcome anyone who wishes to help in any sort of way. We particularly welcome articles from any local group or individual on issues specifically relevant to things going on in Cambridge in which they are involved. We hope readers will find the paper both interesting and useful as a means of finding out more about what is going on in Cambridge. We would like to hear people's reactions to Grapevine whether critical or approving in order to help us improve the contents.

Each issue is planned at a meeting to which everyone is welcome to come and contribute.

PS AN APOLOGY :- to everyone who paid for a subscription a few issues ago. We have lost the list of subscribers and probably forgot a few of you so please if you haven't been receiving copies, let us know!

Page 2



Wot's all this then?

We have been pleased by the response we have been getting in the form of news and articles from local groups. We would like to hear more and welcome the chance to help publicise their activities and campaigns. If any groups would like to be involved in laying out artwork for their own contributions, please let us know.

The next meeting to discuss this issue and plan the next will be at Grapevine Bookshop, 41 Fitzroy St, at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 30th October.

Please send us news, views and letters or just get in touch at Grapevine Bookshop, Tel Cambridge 314825

Friend's of the Earth Jumble Sale - Bath House, Nov 3rd.

GRAPEVINE : PAPER AND BOOKSHOP

Some of the people involved in Grapevine Community Paper are also involved in Grapevine Bookshop. After some discussion, this name was chosen for the bookshop, firstly because the paper and the bookshop share many of the same aims - to support local community groups in various ways; secondly because they share workers and are therefore closely connected in practice; thirdly, it was thought that, by sharing the same name, they would publicise and support each other. The benefit to the paper from having the bookshop as a centre is obvious.

AUNT AGGIE LEAVES TOWN

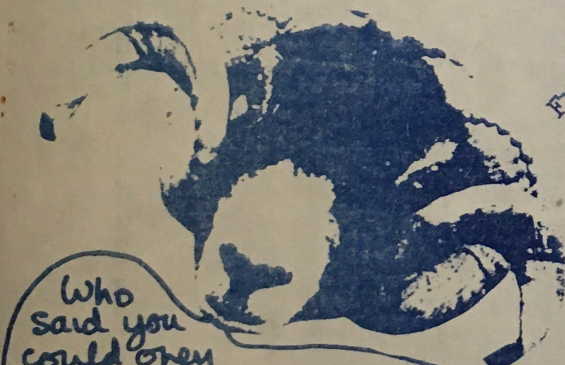
Grapevine regrets to announce the departure of Aunt Aggie who has moved to Brighton to study for a degree at Sussex University. "I'm jus goin to git educated. Keep it goin while I'm away, kids! I'll be back... see yer", she told Grapevine before she left: "And er... oh yeah...don't forget the NAC demo. See yer there, OK?"

Cllr. Gough Goodman was aware that, between the two C.D.A.P. meetings, the bookshop had received a large amount of support from groups and individuals. He was also aware that the Labour Group on the City Council had decided to table a motion to the next full council meeting, on October 4th, demanding the withdrawal of the eviction proceedings which were due to be heard on the next day, October 5th, at the County Court. It was this, together with the knowledge that the Liberal and Independent Councillors would support the motion, and the fact that the Tory

As well as the City Labour and Liberal Groups and Margaret Reiss, groups who gave their formal support to the bookshop include: Cambridge City Labour Party; Cambridge City Trades Council; General and Municipal Workers Union, Cambridge(2) Branch; Cambridge Community Relations Council; Cambridge Friends of the Earth; Cambridge Gingerbread; Cambridge Womens Aid; Cambridge National Abortion Campaign; Cambridge Communist Party; senior members of the Social and Political Sciences Committee, Cambridge University.

Grapevine Bookshop would like to express their thanks to all the above, to all those who supported the bookshop by writing to the Council and to the 832 people who signed the petition opposing the eviction.

Hopes have been raised amongst besieged residents that this episode will discourage Cllr. Gough Goodman from attempting to rampage through the Kite in the manner of his predecessor. Some optimists have wondered whether it will encourage Mr DATson to consult a few more people before planning any future raids on the area.



Who said you could open a bookshop without asking me? I thought I was 'cos round here. baaa...

STOP PRESS : BOOKSHOP

A meeting of the Central Development Action Panel on September 26th unanimously agreed to withdraw the eviction proceedings against the Grapevine Bookshop. In a press release to the Cambridge Evening News Cllr. Gough Goodman claimed that this decision was taken because of legal difficulties. This is untrue and, together with the minutes of the C.D.A.P. meeting, obscured the real reason behind this strange change of heart of the Tory controlled C.D.A.P., all Tory members of which, at a meeting two weeks previously had voted to continue with the eviction.

group no longer have an overall majority on the City Council, that led to the change of heart. Because of this the motion to full Council Meeting was subsequently withdrawn.

Grapevine Bookshop has still not received a reply to their letter of 7th September, to the city solicitor, offering to pay rent, and have been told by the Electricity Board that they would like to supply the shop with electricity, but have been instructed by the council not to do so "under any circumstances".

NO RETURN TO THE BACK STREETS

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORRIE.

The effects of the Corrie anti-abortion bill which has just received a heavy majority at its second reading would be

- to make abortion after 20 weeks illegal. Women needing late abortions have to be catered for since they are mainly 1) women diagnosed after 6 months pregnancy as carrying deformed babies
- menopausal women uncertain of their period
- young girls uncertain about their pregnancy. Such late abortions form only 1% of all abortions. Since doctors allow 4 weeks margin for miscalculation of the date of the period, effectually the limit would be 16 weeks.

b) to make abortions at any time illegal unless grave risk to the physical or mental health of the mother or her children could be proved.

c) to reduce, make less effective & in many cases close down the charitable non-profit making clinics which currently perform 50% of all abortions by severing financial, administrative and counselling links.

Cambridge NAC are campaigning against the

IF John Corrie M.P. was pregnant after his Bill became law ...



would he be able to convince two doctors that continuing with his pregnancy would involve grave, substantial and serious risk?

would he go to a backstreet abortionist, when he finds that there are no charitable clinics or NHS facilities in his area?

would he be able to get an abortion after 20 weeks when his colleagues in Parliament have agreed with him that 'he should be made to have his baby'.

OR WOULD HE JOIN WITH US IN SAYING

Corrie bill by circulating petitions against it & collecting signatures; organising a public meeting with a speaker & fun event in October (details later); organising transport with Cambridge Trades Council to go to London for the big T.N.C. sponsored demonstration in London on October 28th against the Corrie bill. It's vitally important that our community is widely & fully represented at this event - many M.P.s did not even bother to turn up for the 2nd reading of the bill. With this demonstration we should be able to influence them & show them how the majority of people in their constituencies do support the 1967 Abortion Act & a woman's right to choose.

NO RETURN TO THE BACK STREETS! KEEP ABORTION SAFE - KEEP IT LEGAL!

For further information on how to help the campaign against the Corrie bill, ring Kate on 4724 or contact NAC c/o 47, Eden St.

COME TO THE LONDON DEMO ON OCT. 28th: DEPARTURE OF TRANSPORT etc FROM KATE OR NAC.

**MARCH AGAINST
THE CORRIE
BILL. OCT. 28.
LONDON.
buses from
CAMBRIDGE**

FREE ABORTION ON DEMAND

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE!

GRAPEVINE BOOKSHOP

Cambridge's newest bookshop

"Grapevine Bookshop" opened on Saturday September 1st with the aim of providing an outlet for alternative literature and publications produced by community groups in Cambridge, at present sorely lacking in the town. We are operating from a squatted shop on Fitzroy Street which has remained unused since the city council, who own it, found other premises for the previous occupants some time in February.

THE PRESENT SITUATION.

Along with much other property in the Fitzroy Street area the council brought this shop for future demolition in connection with the proposed 'development' by Grosvenor Estates. The idea of using the shop at No. 41 had been discussed on and off since the flat above was squatted early in March. When Dillons bookshop in Silver Street closed down a couple of months ago Cambridge was left with nowhere selling any literature of a radical nature. The need for an alternative bookshop was thus even greater than it had been and this prompted the decision to open one here. Work began and over a period of several weeks a number of people started clearing, repairing and equipping the future shop and in August we started to contact publishers and distributors to arrange orders and deliveries. The major problem facing the bookshop was not knowing what action the council would take once they noticed that one of their empty properties was being constructively used. In the event the shop opened on Saturday Sept. 1st and it took the council just four days to send an official around to ask us if we were going to leave voluntarily. Naturally we told him we didn't intend to do this and on the Friday of the same week we received a letter from Mr. Ball the city solicitor informing us of his intention of applying to the County Court for a possession order.

We understand a summons was taken out at the court that same day but to date it has not been served.

All this action was taken by Mr. Datsun after consulting only Cllr. Cough Goodman, without any reference to any of the relevant committees. The arguments of Mr. Datsun and of the Conservative leader Cllr. Cough-Goodman for what they are worth seem to be simply that

- (a) they have a legal responsibility to Grosvenor Estates to ensure that they do everything within their powers to ensure the scheme goes through.
- (b) a few local traders had complained.

To the first point our reply is that as work on the 'redevelopment' will not start for a minimum of six months and in all probability much much longer, we can in the meanwhile be nothing but an asset to the area and the ratepayer. We are paying commercial rates on the property to the tune of £750 per year, have made a request for a short term lease with the offer of rent, and are carrying out repairs and maintenance to the building at our own expense. In response to their second argument we visited 40 other traders in the immediate neighbourhood of which 28 said they were in favour of what we were doing. 7 had no comment to make and only the remaining five were against us, mainly on the grounds that they were in favour of the redevelopment and feared that in some way we would obstruct its passage. This heavy handed policy is being pursued despite assurances given by Cllr. Gough-Goodman soon after the May elections, in which the Conservatives lost control of the council, principally because of the Kite fiasco,

that the new Tory Group would adopt a more conciliatory and reasonable policy.

THE BOOKSHOP ITSELF.

Grapevine Bookshop is collectively run by a group of six people who make all the decisions regarding its policy and day to day running by general agreement.* Our aim is to provide a place in Cambridge where as large a range as possible of alternative literature can be found. Apart from things of a general political nature we hope to build up comprehensive sections concerned with environmental issues, the women's movement and women's rights, Anti-racism and a stock of second-hand books. We also have a large selection of magazines, periodicals and pamphlets on a wide variety of issues.

Another of our main aims is to provide an outlet for the publications of pressure groups in Cambridge. Already we have material from a large number of these including Cambridge Women's Aid, The National Abortion Campaign, Friends of the Earth, The Community Relations Council, The Cambridge Campaign against Racism and Facism, St. Matthew's Neighbourhood Assn., The Chile Solidarity Campaign, Student Community Action, The Cambridge Empty Property Action Group, The Soil Association and Gingerbread.





No other bookshop in town will stock this literature principally because there is no money to be made from it. If however there is a place which every group can use it will provide an ideal focus for information.

Due to the enthusiasm to help we encountered from a number of publishers and distributors we have been able to start off with very little capital. We get magazines and pamphlets on a sale or return basis and books on a month or three months credit. Obviously we would love to increase our present fairly limited stock enormously but while the future is so uncertain we can't risk being left with a lorry load of books and nowhere to sell them from.

We operate on a non-profit making basis, all surplus from our sales being put back into the shop. All of the workers are unpaid.

Working in the shop has been a really exciting occupation. Since we opened, there has been a stream of people coming in to wish us well, sign our petition against the closure and saying how good it is to see a bookshop of this nature opened up. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in any way, local traders, people, customers and organisations. Also to the dozen or so councillors of all political parties with the exception of the Conservatives and in particular Margaret Reiss our local Independent councillor, and Doris Howe, the leader of the Labour Group.

Anyone who would like to help us to remain open could do so by writing to their local city councillor or to Mr. Datsun the Chief Executive at the Guildhall. Also by coming to the shop between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays, signing our petition and generally passing the word about that we are open. If we can persuade the local council not to evict us and brick the building up we should be here for a long time to come!

AN APPEAL

The bookshop is greatly in need of a variety of office equipment, in particular we need a filing cabinet and a typewriter, but any other things which might be useful would be greatly appreciated.

Also, needless to say, any donations of money would be welcome as we have incurred quite a few expenses in setting up, for instance; building materials, installation of a telephone and a rates bill. Also in the near future we may have to pay the electricity board up to £100 to reconnect the supply which the council kindly had cut off.

Islay Currie
for the Grapevine Bookshop
Collective.

10 Fixed Assets

Capital
Cost or valuation
brought forward
Additions
Disposals
Cost or valuation
carried forward

Land and Buildings Freehold £	Buildings Leasehold £	Non Trade Property Freehold £	Leasehold £
4,365,859	224,079	341,333	91,752
928,730	70,262	14,307	
17,731			
5,276,858	294,361	327,026	91,752

SURPLUS for YEAR before TAX
Taxation

5. Non Trade Property Net Income

Rents received
Depreciation
Other expenses
Total expenses
Net income

1979 £
50,385
9,289
9,873
19,162
£31,223

(8)

167,483
(10,000)
177,483

Derelict Landlords in Cambridge

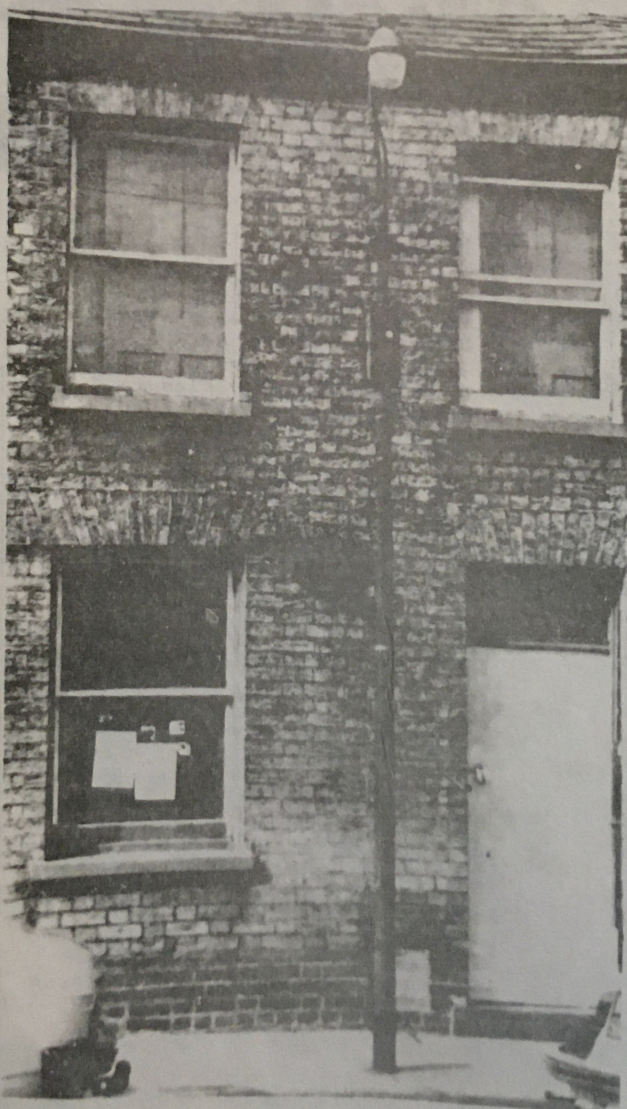
No 1:

THE CO-OP

GRAPEVINE has carried a number of articles in the past highlighting the scandal of empty property in Cambridge and has concentrated on attacking the City Council as the worst offenders in this respect. They are, however, by no means the sole offenders and this article will concentrate on the Cambridge and District Co-operative Society and some of its properties that have been empty for years.

I suppose it is naive to expect more social concern from this body, as over the years it has become increasingly similar to its commercial rivals to the point of virtually loosing all sight of its original aims and intentions of the Co-operative movement. It is ironic though, that with an advertising slogan like "Your Caring and Sharing Co-op" this organisation should be found to own a large number of houses in the town which have been empty for years and are falling into states of progressive dereliction.

The worst examples are Nos 35 and 36 James Street, a couple of small pleasant terraced houses which, according to neighbours, have been empty for the last 22 years. As they adjoin to their funeral parlour, the Co-op are keen to hang on to them for possible future extensions or developments on that site. It is obvious that they are not concerned about leaving them disused until such a development takes place. A recent planning application for conversion into offices has recently been turned down and a member of the staff admitted that they now have no idea what they will do with them - maybe they could consider letting people live there.

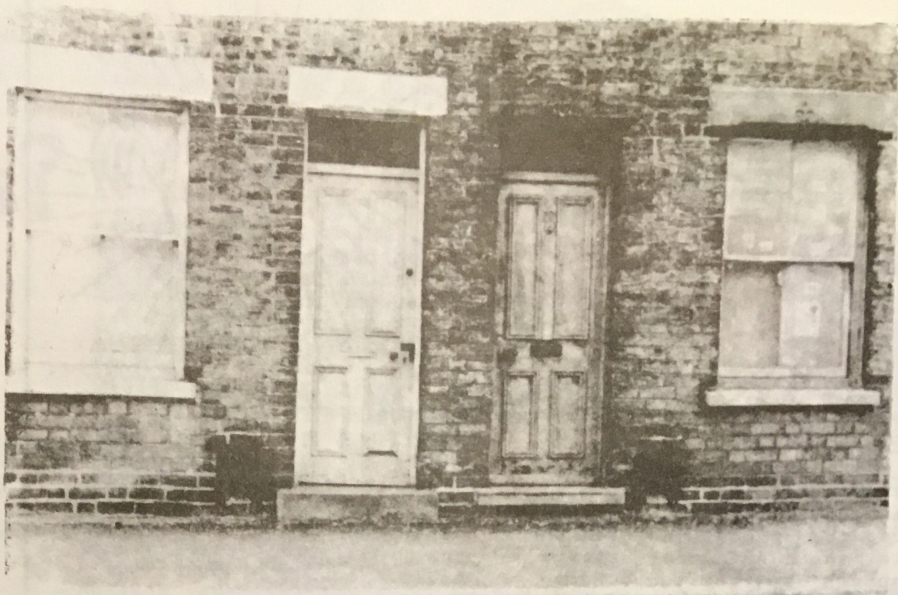


Christchurch Street

In a parallel street, Christchurch Street, is another empty house - No. 7 - which in fact is part of the same Co-op complex. This house has been empty for 2 years and has recently been bricked and boarded up after squatters had been evicted.

Across East Road in York Street the Co-op own three adjoining terraced houses Nos 64, 66 & 68, which have been empty for at least 3 years. A few months ago a person from a group in need of housing wrote to the Co-op, asking if they would discuss with them the possibility of a lease or some other arrangement whereby they could live in these houses. She quickly received a curt one sentence reply to the effect that the Co-op didn't wish to discuss these properties. More recently some other people attempted to squat these houses but were disturbed by the police after a neighbour had reported them. In this instance the Co-op has insisted on pressing charges of criminal damage against two of the people involved. This is particularly ludicrous as the "damage" alleged had something to do with removing boards from a window in a house which had been left by the owners to fall rapidly into total disrepair. Still - the Co-op along with all other property-owners, obviously subscribe to the philosophy that owners are entitled to do anything or nothing with their houses whereas homeless people should be fined or imprisoned for trying to live in them!

Another row of 3 terraced houses owned by the Co-op are Nos 1, 2 & 3 City Road. These stand out in a street, otherwise the scene of much improvement and repairs, by the enormous padlocks on the front doors, the metal sheets rather than curtains in the insides of the windows and the new brick work instead of back doors - hardly a tribute to the Co-op's concern for the area in which they have their main department store.



64 and 66 York Street

8 Years



1, 2 and 3 City Road

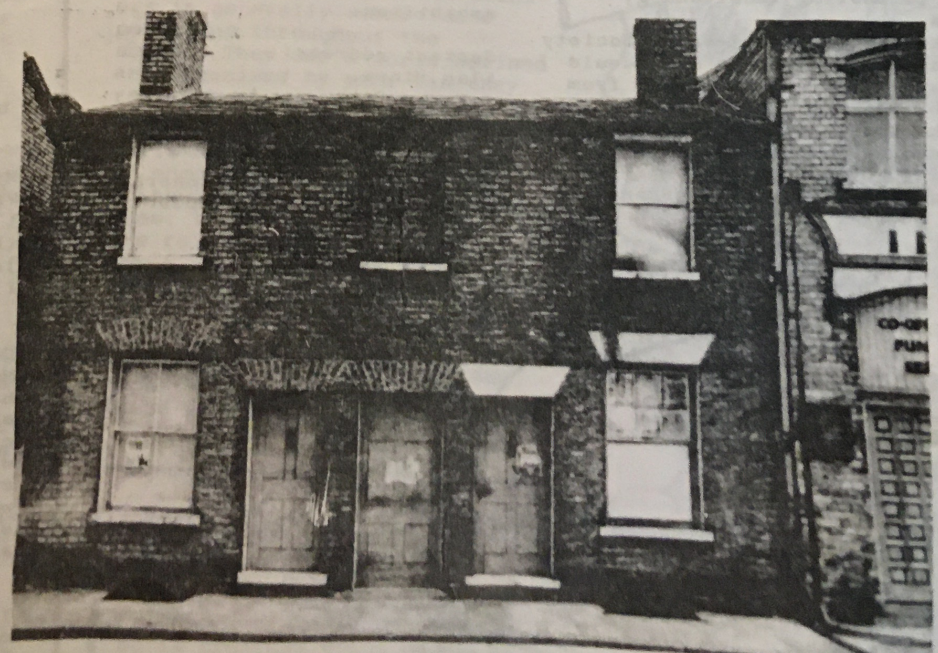
EMPTY

4 Years

22 Years

The Co-op was approached last year by a member of the Cambridge Empty Property Action Group who proposed a short term lease on some of these properties, particularly the ones in York Street. This, however, met with no enthusiasm. Furthermore, a Co-op spokesperson when asked what was going to happen to these houses, was told, in effect - nothing. The reason being that they would cost several thousand pounds to renovate (due to their being empty for so long?) the rents would then be set by the fair rents officer and this would mean that the owners would get a poor return on their investment.

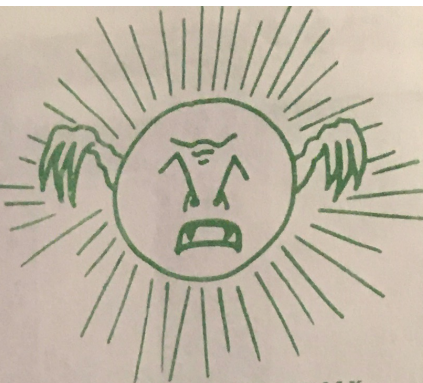
Ah well - and I thought the Co-operative Society had some sort of pretensions of being an alternative to the other commercial exploiters around!



34 and 35 James Street

NUCLEAR REPORT

No 1



IS NUCLEAR POWER THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE ENERGY GAP?

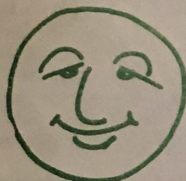
No; its not true that Britain has to go nuclear. At the moment the bulk of our electricity is produced by coal and even though oil is fast running out Britain has enough coal for two hundred years. We have a generating overcapacity of 40% i.e. almost half as much again as was needed for the peak demand on the coldest day of the year. The Department of Energy estimates of future need for the next ten years are not this big. Nuclear power stations only produce about 12% of British electricity. This amount and more can easily be produced, a great deal of money saved, and the proven dangers of nuclear power averted by putting effort into conservation and alternative forms of power.

WHAT CAN CONSERVATION REALLY ACHIEVE?

Lots; as just one example, domestic space heating uses 20% of all energy produced. Department of Energy estimates that insulation would save half of this. The proposed Torness nuclear power station will cost at least £800 million, about £83 per household. Home roof insulation can be done for as little as £30. If combined with a more thoughtful energy use we believe that this could reduce electricity production requirements by more than 12%, and £800 million is the money required to build just one nuclear reactor.

And we haven't even mentioned wind, geothermal, heat pumps etc.

EXERCISE IN DOUBLE MORALITY



SOME ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

There are very many appropriate ways of meeting local energy needs.

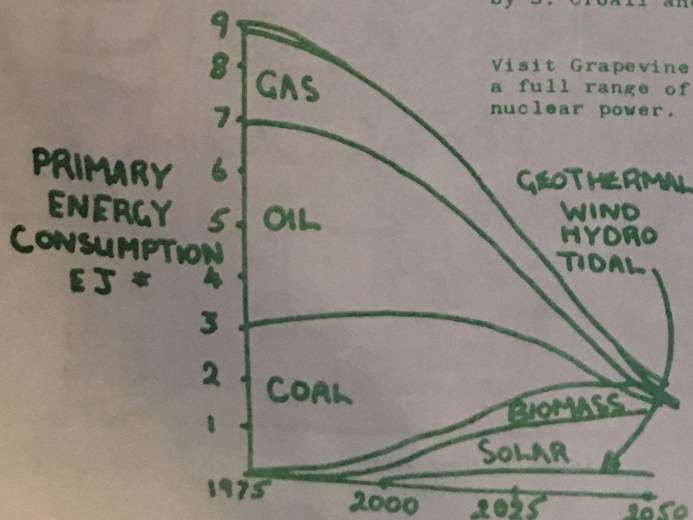
- * The International Solar Society estimates that the U.K. could supply 14% of its energy from the sun.
- * The total power delivered by waves around Britain is 120,000 MW; three times the current electricity demand.

There is a nuclear exhibition in the Bath House, Gwydir St. on Saturday 20th October together with an insulation exhibition.

Contact address:
Alan Hines,
3 Ferry Path,
Cambridge.

Further reading:
Nuclear Power for Beginners
by S. Croall and K. Sempler.

Visit Grapevine Bookshop for a full range of literature on nuclear power.



FROM GAY MEN'S LIVES

Somebody asks me, "Have you got a girlfriend?" "No" I say, resisting the pull to add "not at the moment", and thinking, "You should see my boyfriend. He's amazing!" "Playing the field, huh?" I smile and wait for the bit about plenty of time to settle down and raise a family.

Sex education in school. I look and listen in disbelief and incomprehension. I feel confused and angry. They make me think that the way I feel is not valid.

I'm in a disco. Women are dancing and men line the walls "Look at her. What about that one?" I look past the dancing group at the line of men on the other side of the room, and make up a story about the night's straight adventures to tell the next day.

In class I keep stealing glances at a boy with lovely hair, and don't hear what the teacher's saying.

Saturday afternoon in town. I'm feeling good, and then I realize that that must be the twentieth straight couple I've seen holding hands, kissing. I want to shout at them who I am. Suddenly every image you see, seems to be smothering you.

I meet a man who says, "Jack's stopped doing nights. It's lovely we can be together." - What! He's talking about a MAN! I keep looking at him. This man's homosexual!

My lover rings me up at work. We giggle. I ask him if he's made the bed this morning. I tell him I love him. I enjoy me co-workers listening.

Do these sound familiar? Most of us feel that these didn't happen to anyone else. We share very many similar experiences, but our reactions are different. In a gay men's consciousness-raising group we can hear and support each other, and learn more about ourselves.

If you're interested in joining one, phone Michael Turnbull Cambridge 63697.

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DO CAMBRIDGE SCHOOLS RESTRICT GIRLS?

How far have Cambridge comprehensives gone along the path to equal opportunities?

A study which is taking place at the moment seems to indicate that girls are still making the traditional choices. Preliminary findings show that girls have not been encouraged to modernise their aspirations and join the technological age.

TRADITIONAL ASSUMPTIONS

In 1975 the Department of Education and Science issued a document called "Curricular differences for Boys and Girls". The problem was spelled out in these words:

"The prevailing picture is of traditional assumptions being worked out through the curricular patterns of secondary schools, and of support for and acceptance of these patterns by the majority of teachers, parents and pupils. . . . Whatever differences that may continue to exist ought to be based on genuine choice, choice openly offered to all who reveal the necessary interest, ability and determination, and not choice based on the traditional assumptions about the "proper" sphere of interest of men and women".

The report goes on to suggest that "secondary schools should carry out an analysis of both content and organisation of the curriculum from the first year onwards to ensure that choices made later were based. . . on a real equality of access to experience, to information and to guidance. . . ."

Taking this account of how things should be as a starting point, the study is looking at schools in Cambridge to see how they measure up.

LIMITED CHOICES

The work is not complete, but so far it appears that girls are still not taking science subjects and still think of the sciences as a male domain. This may be because of the way they are presented and there is some evidence that girls have to get better marks in science before being accepted into the 4th year science courses.

The teaching of home economics, needlework and childcare lead directly to the job of housewife. They do not equip girls with the kind of qualifications

they need to compete on the labour market. It is wrong not to give girls the qualifications which would enable them to make a choice and pursue a career. As it is, many leave school and mark time until they get married.

Asking girls themselves, the study found them willing to think of the future and get good jobs. Often, however, they are funnelled into the Home Economics and child care courses, especially if they are designated "low ability". The "low ability" boys will take woodwork and metalwork, which still leaves open more career prospects.

RETHINKING

Have Cambridge schools re-thought the "content and organisation" of the curriculum? There is no evidence that they have. History is still taught as the

"aggression of mankind" rather than the "progress of humankind". Are English departments weeding out literature which depicts women in traditional roles and making an effort to ensure women writers are well represented? Do religious education teachers still identify God as "he"?

Girls still know that Woodwork and Metalwork are "Boys' subjects" and they don't tend to take them seriously in any numbers. The same applies to boys with Home Economics and childcare. A rethink of the curriculum here could make a vast difference. In Physical Education, the all pervasive "football" culture is not open to girls. These are just some examples.

As girls look up through the school they see their male headmaster (there are no female heads of comprehensives in Cambridge); and in most schools they will see their women teachers in generally subordinate positions throughout the school. They see a world defined and organised by men. Can they really believe that they are also the inheritors of the earth?

Girls need a tremendous amount of encouragement to break out of the stereotypes which hamper them. If these stereotypes are reinforced at home, by their peer group and, it seems, by the school, it is hardly surprising that girls under-achieve.

The present study in Cambridge hopes to highlight some of these problems.

Grapevine would like to hear from teachers, parents and pupils at Cambridge schools about equal opportunities. Are girls still held back as this article suggests, or is progress being made? Please write and let us know.



CAMBRIDGE CRAFTWORKERS

The first of a series of interviews with artists and craftworkers who live and work in Cambridge.



Jill Denton - Potter

"You've got to find an aim, sort out what you want and go for it".

This comment by Jill Denton seemed to typify her attitude to her life and her craft. A training in Classical Ballet which she was not able to utilise and a broken marriage provided the impetus for her to look for a new career. She worked as a technician to a potter at Braintree College of Further Education for eight years, and found in pottery the "total involvement" which ballet in previous years had been able to give her. She taught pottery at adult education classes for several years and was eventually able to save up enough to set up her own studio. She spoke of the problems which had confronted her at the outset, but said that the refusal of an Arts Council grant had not discouraged her but had only set her back on her own two hands, a situation which she was used to. She felt that some craftsmen were too reliant on state support and if you really want to do something you will anyway.

She sells her work mainly through exhibitions and craft fairs, and even though she knows what sort of things sell best, she feels that it is more important to make things she likes rather than reproducing things to sell. She prefers to make individual items rather than make mass reproductions for the retail trade.

Pottery appeals to her because it is "natural, tactile and primitive". She said that she would hate to see the world living out of plastic. "I like clay, I like the medium I am working with, and I like it to say something in the end...of itself, of the medium it is made of". Her designs reflect her belief in the necessity for the form to be expressive of the medium. On one bowl that she had made she had left the edges rough because she felt that it fitted better the form of the clay itself. One design she used to decorate a plate with was of a dancer, a link between her early training and present craft. She feels that dancing is aligned to pottery in that both involve the creation of a form. She is always self-critical of her work, and searching after fresh modes of expression and new techniques, and wary of the danger of sinking into a comfortable rut. She is planning to go to China for six months to find out about primitive Chinese techniques, which she is particularly interested in.

Her lifestyle is centred around her craft, which is for her not only a means of making a living, but also an expression of her feelings about the role of art in society, and above all a fulfilling activity in itself.

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

The St. Matthews Photo Workshop would like to hear from any photographers keen on establishing a community darkroom facility at the Bath House Neighbourhood Centre, Gwydir Street.

Also, if you are interested in the Workshop, or in the general consideration of photography as a means of self expression, why not get in touch?

The Photo Workshop can be contacted by leaving a note at the Bath House or by ringing Roy Hammans (66900)

Photographic Equipment

If anyone has - or knows of - any old photographic equipment (cameras, enlargers, processing equipment, etc) that they no longer need and would be willing to donate the same to the community darkroom please let us know.

This page is a pretty complete guide to Radical Alternative Cambridge. If there are any errors or corrections please let us know. Grapevine Box, Fitzroy Street, telephone: 01223 311111

PRESSURE

Anti-Apartheid
Hilary Perrin
247 Hills Road

Amnesty International
c/o Mr. R. F. Paine
298 Coldhams Lane
C. 43329

University of Cambridge
c/o Liz Waller
Newnham College

Gay Men's Co-operative
Raising Group
Michael Turner
C. 63697

Campaign for Racial
Equality (CHRE)
Men's Group
Graham Paine
Les C. 353197
Meets every Tuesday
(fortnightly)
Road - on other
the place varies
Womens' Group
Christine Donohue
C. 56344

Chile Committee
Rights.
Andy Brown, 5
C. 311750.
Ethel Shepherd
Grove. C. 46344

Empty Properties
Sue Covender
Eccelsfield,
Students Union

Friends of the
Eric Blenkinsop
House, Gwydir
C. 312800. M
Wednesday, 8

Gay Cambridge
group. Contact
Gonville & Caius
Anchor pub,
Meetings Monday

Kite Co-ordinator
c/o Liza Jarman
Causeway, C.

Torness Alliance
Nickie Stubbs
Gwydir Street

Squatters Group
Currie. 41A

Park Street
Mrs. Knight
Parade. C.

Cambridge People's
Campaign Against
Campaign for
Mark Dunn, S

DIRECTORY OF GROUPS

This page is hoped to be a pretty comprehensive guide to Radical/Community/Alternative groups in Cambridge.

If there are any additions or corrections to be made, please let us know at the Grapevine Bookshop, 41A Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, telephone: 314825.

PRESSURE GROUPS

Anti-Apartheid
Hilary Perraton
247 Hills Road

Amnesty International
c/o Mr. R. Fairbairne
298 Coldhams Lane
C. 43329

University Group
c/o Liz Wallis
Newnham College

Gay Men's Consciousness
Raising Group
Michael Turnbull
C. 63697

Campaign for Homosexual
Equality (CHE)
Men's Group
Graham Paine C. 311971
Les C. 353197
Meets every Thursday at 8pm
(fortnightly at 4 Glisson
Road - on other Thursdays
the place varies.)
Womens' Group
Christine Donald
C. 56344

While Committee for Human
Rights.
Andy Brown, 53 City Road.
C. 311750.
Ethel Shepherd, 96 Blinco
Grove. C. 46751

Empty Property Action Group
Sue Covender or Nigel
Eccelsfield, c/o CCAT,
Students Union, Collier Road.

Friends of the Earth
Eric Blenkinsop, The Bath
House, Gwydir Street.
C. 312800. Meeting every
Wednesday, 8pm.

Gay Cambridge university-based
group. Contact Toby Keynes,
Gonville & Caius with CHE -
Anchor pub, Silver Street.
Meetings Monday 8pm.

Kite Co-ordinating Council (KCC)
c/o Liza Jardine, 53 Maids
Causeway, C. 63989.

Torness Alliance,
Nickie Stubbs, The Bath House,
Gwydir Street. C. 312800.

Squatters group. Islay
Currie. 41A Fitzroy Street.

Park Street Residents Assn.
Mrs. Knight, 28 Park
Parade. C. 53804.

Cambridge Peace Group, (Cam-
paign Against Arms Trade &
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament)
Mark Dunn, Selwyn College.

WOMEN

Cambridge Womens' Centre
48A Eden Street.
General meeting 1st Tuesday
of the month 8pm. Also open
every Saturday 2 to 5 pm.

Pregnancy Testing Sessions
Saturdays 10 - 11.30 am. at
the Womens' Centre. Tests are
free and confidential. Bring
an early morning urine sample.

Cambridge Womens' Liberation
Newsletter - to subscribe, write
to the Newsletter Group at the
womens' centre. To help pro-
duce it, there is a meeting
at 8.30 pm on the first Tues-
day of the month after the
general meeting. 8.30 pm.

Womens' Health Group
Marje Salkie, C. 356902.

Women and Education for
women interested
in fighting sexism in
schools and education gener-
ally. Contact Celia 312620.

Compulsive Eating Group
Contact Prudence, C. 50757.

Socialist Feminist Group.
C. 65449.

Cambridge Womens' Aid.
Refuge for women and children.
Audrey, C. 60243 or Dora
C. 43706.

Cambridge Lesbian Switchboard.
Friday evening 6 - 11 pm.
C. 212577.

National Abortian Campaign
meets weekly to campaign for
abortion on demand. Karen
C. 52003 or Kate C. 62724.

POLITICS

All Cambridge Campaign
Against Racism and Facism
(ACCARAF), and Rock against
Racism (RAR), c/o Dave Arnott,
Darwin College, Silver Street.

Communist Party, c/o Dave
Morton, 47A Panton Street.
C. 61549.

Jewish Socialists Group,
Barry Smarin, 65 Blinco
Grove. C. 46100.

Labour Party, c/o Mike
Jones, Alexwood Hall,
Norfolk Street. C. 55511.

Liberal Party, 4 Glisson Road,
C. 69312.

Progressive Co-operative
Movement, Len Freeman,
23 Hope Street, C. 311455.

Socialist Workers Party.
Meets every Monday at 8pm
in the Duke of Argyll.

Trades Council, Ron Ralph,
5 Forest Road, Cherry Hinton.
C. 44438.

Trades Union Congress (TUC)
East Anglian Regional Council,
119 Newmarket Road. C. 67631.

HELP AND ADVICE

Alcoholics Anonymous. Peter,
Saffron Walden 23214.

Citizens Advice Bureau.
Michael Savage, 31 Regent
Terrace.

Claimants Union. Helpful and
sympathetic advice for claim-
ants by claimants, 2 - 5pm
at the Bath House Gwydir Street.
C. 312800, or contact Ian at
C. 68329.

Community Education, June
O'Brien, Shire Hall. C. 58811
extension 412.

Community Relations Council.
The Bath House, Gwydir Street,
C. 60333.

Cyrenians Ltd., Willie Sugg,
4 Short Street, C. 67797.

Friend. (Befriends lonely
homosexuals.) John 95 41971.

Gingerbread. A national
organisation of single
parent families.
Contacts: Lesley Low,
C. 211350, Cathy Collins,
C. 312764.

Housing Advice Centre. The
Guildhall, Wheeler Street.
C. 58977 ex. 369 or 370

Law Surgery. For Free legal
advice. Mrs. R.A. Jones,
9 Arber Close, Bottisham 811783.

Tuesdays 7 - 9pm, St. Matt-
hews Centre, 9 Norfolk St.

Wednesdays 12.30 - 2pm,
Citizens Advice Bureau, 31
Regents Terrace.

7 - 9pm,
Arbury Community Centre,
Campkin Road.

Thursdays 6 - 7 pm, East
Barnwell Community Centre,
Newmarket Road.

7 - 9pm, The
Bath House, Gwydir Street..

Fridays 6 - 7pm, Citizens
Advice Bureau.

Saturdays 10 - 1pm, Citizens
Advice Bureau.

Samaritans. 1 Parker Street,
C. 56420. Emergency no. C.
64455.

Save the Children Fund.
Cambridge Project. David Green,
Overstream House, Victoria
Avenue. C. 50967.

Student Community Action.
Romilly Gregory, 3 Round Church
Street. C. 50365.

Youth Action. Francis
Woodward, 1 Benet Place,
Lensfield Road. C. 56549.

Getting Away With Murder !

In October 1977 Henry Bowles, a 24 year old motorcycle mechanic went to see the group Subway Sect play in The Bell public house in Kings Cross, London. The event was organised against the wishes of the licensee by Flannagans, the company that own the pub, to cash in on the popularity of the then new wave of punk music. The licensee, as he is perfectly legally entitled to do, hired six men as bouncers to 'keep order'.

It was two weeks before Guy Fawkes Night and around 10.30 p.m. someone let a banger off. A girl was accused of this and thrown out. At about midnight another banger went off and a friend of the licensee pointed to Henry Bowles and accused him. At this the licensee took hold of Henry, pulled him from his stool and hit him round the face. The licensee was joined by two of the bouncers who rushed up to Henry Bowles and the three of them pulled him along to the end of the bar, punching and kicking him. At this point two more bouncers joined in.

The licensee could have called off his men but he chose instead to walk away and have a conversation with someone on the other side of the bar, an action which conveniently left him unable to testify in court later to what happened next. Two of the bouncers then hauled Henry Bowles outside while the other two barred the exit door, and in the space of about ten minutes they gave Henry a savage going over. When they came in again one of the bouncers found he had cut himself on the glass doors. Incensed by this self-inflicted damage the two bouncers went outside and inflicted another heavy beating on the defenceless Henry Bowles. As plenty of witnesses in court testified, Henry Bowles had a gentle and cheerful disposition. He seldom drank and had never been involved in a violent incident. Two weeks later he died of his injuries in a London Hospital.

At the trial of the two bouncers a year later, after much dealing between police and accused and much bungling of evidence, one of the bouncers got three months for assault and the other a very lenient one year for manslaughter - a sentence later quashed on appeal. As far as the authorities were concerned that was the end of the matter but ever since his death Henry's family had noticed other cases of bouncer brutality reported in the press. When the trial was over the S.B.C. did a documentary report on the problem in which Henry's brother Matthew launched the CAMPAIGN FOR THE REGISTRATION OF BOUNCERS which

he now runs from 33 Montague Road, Cambridge. Two of the things which struck Matthew most forcibly about the events before and after his brother's death were the cloak of anonymity behind which bouncers can hide and the indifference of the investigating police towards the case: "Nobody knew or would admit to knowing the two blokes involved in the assault and the police did nothing to find out; they didn't bother interviewing anyone. People had to go down to the police station and say, "Look, I saw what happened, take my statement..." And yet this to my mind was a murder case because these people had intended to commit Grievous Bodily Harm, a fella had died and in law that should be a murder charge. The police weren't concerned at all - he could have been run over by a bus, it was as if it had been a sort of act of God. The registration of bouncers would mean that if they were more accountable, if they could be held responsible for their actions more than they are now, it might control them a bit."

The CAMPAIGN FOR THE REGISTRATION OF BOUNCERS know of seven cases where people have actually died from bouncer brutality and have evidence of numerous cases of fractured skulls, broken bones, lacerations to the face from broken bottles and concussion from billiard cues. Over 100 cases have been reported to them and they have the support particularly of three families who have lost people at the hands of bouncers - a man who was kicked to death outside a club in Liverpool by three bouncers, two of whom got life imprisonment (later commuted to four years, in the same court, by the same judges, in the same week as the appeal judges who reduced the conviction on the men that killed Henry Bowles in Kings Cross), a boy in Scotland, punched to death by a bouncer outside a club in the sea-side town of Largs and a young man in

CAMPAIGN FOR THE REGISTRATION OF BOUNCERS

This drawing, recently published in the *Daily Mirror*, is of 24 year old Henry Bowles lying unconscious in a London hospital. Henry's father drew the picture to show his son when he came round.

Henry never saw the drawing because seven days later he was dead.



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Walthamstow who was killed by bouncers in a hammer attack two and a half years ago. In the last case the bouncers were first of all on a murder charge but a deal was done with the police and on their pleading guilty the charge was dropped to one of common assault with a three year sentence. The problem is that the police and the courts tend to treat bouncers sympathetically because they see bouncers as not only doing what they think of as a difficult policing job but doing it amongst people they would consider anyway as an unsavoury element of society.

Press coverage for C.U.R.B. has been fairly good - both the Mirror and the Guardian have had large articles - but probably for dubious reasons. As far as the press goes it's just a good news story - here's this bloke whose brother got killed and he's doing something about it - but the reporters who've done research on the problem have got very sympathetic while the press just pick it up while it's hot. The music papers - Sounds and N.M.E. particularly - have given the best coverage but then, as Matthew Bowles says, "They know all about it. They get letters every week about bouncers beating people up." The support from members

of the public directly affected by bouncers has been strong too - Matthew Bowles again - "When we give leaflets out at concerts people come up and say, 'This is really good, I've heard about you, it's time somebody did something about it.' It makes you go on doing it. There's such a big demand." The aim of the CAMPAIGN FOR THE REGISTRATION OF BOUNCERS is simple. They would like there to be a register of bouncers' names in each locality. If you were a licensee and you wanted to employ someone as a bouncer you would have to register their name with the local authority - they are the people who grant the late-night extensions and issue the licences so they should keep the list. If you wanted to work as a bouncer in any locality you would have to register first. This would mean that in the event of any serious injury or any attack it would be possible to find out who the bouncers were. Registration is the first aim. Matthew Bowles explains the second - "We're also keen that people with criminal convictions shouldn't be allowed to do the job. There's been a lot of controversy about this and we'd be interested to hear the views of readers of 'Grapevine'."

One more idea of C.U.R.B. is for the local council to hold identity photographs of all bouncers employed but as a first they want bouncers registered and they want to think about the idea of making it impossible for people with criminal convictions to be bouncers.

A Private Members Bill for the Registration of Security Firms and Individuals being redrafted for the new parliament is concerned with the setting up of a national government body for the registration of all security firms, safe and lock companies and bouncers, but C.U.R.B., while obviously not against such a bill, want registration locally and soon - not nationally in some years time. The range of activities covered in the proposed bill does however point to the need for public control over all security forces and not just bouncers. There is a lot of work involved in C.U.R.B. Anyone interested in helping should contact Matthew Bowles at 11 Montague Road, Cambridge.

Kim Redshaw.

NEWNHAM and WEST CAMBRIDGE

If you don't mind us asking.

Residents of West Cambridge recently received copies of "Newnham and West Cambridge District Plan Newsletter No. 1" from the City Council.

The Newsletter explains that the district plan for West Cambridge will be "a comprehensive framework for controlling future change". The Plan will deal with, for example, "housing, employment, traffic parking, shopping, schools, open space and historic buildings".

The Council invites those who live and work in the area to participate in working out the Plan.

All well and good, you might say, except for the question of why this area of Cambridge has been given greater priority for a district plan than any other part of the city.

The Newsletter explains that the "attractive and unique character" of the area is under threat. "The threat", we are told, "comes from pressure to redevelop the large houses in the area for more intensive residential use and to develop the vacant land to the west of Grange Road".

Where this "pressure" is coming from is not spelled out. But it is well known that the University has long fought against any attempt to redevelop West Cambridge (except on its own terms, as in the new science site or the ludicrous Robinson College). A lot of high-ranking academics live in large houses in this part of Cambridge, and they presumably do not want their idyllic peace shattered by anyone except a few undergraduates.

It looks as if the rich nobs have closed ranks to fight suggestions that ordinary mortals might have the right to live in this part of Cambridge. Strings have been pulled, and

a planning team has been set up at the Guildhall to organise the battle. There will be more newsletters, and the local press and posters will be used. A pointless "Community forum" will be set up. There will be a survey of residents, which will no doubt reveal that the inhabitants of this bit of Cambridge don't want intensive residential developments to shatter the peace in their enormous gardens. It will all be very democratic and reasonable. And the centuries-old division of Cambridge into the nice West bit for academics and others who can afford it, and the grotty East bit for College Servants and the rest of humanity, will remain untouched.

Nancy McRaker



BATTERED WOMEN TALKING

at the
Cambridge
refuge



? How did you find out about the refuge.

SARA I first heard about refuges from my step sister who'd been to another East Anglian one.

RITA When I went to housing advice to see if they had anywhere I could go they told me about the refuge in Cambridge.

JEAN Through Social Services that's how I heard.

? What made you get out?

RITA The simple reason things were getting so bad at home, I couldn't stand not only the physical side but the mental side as well, I was always frightened of what was going to happen next - it was too much of a strain I had to get out. He didn't hit me when he was drunk he just used to hit me because he felt like it no other reason.

JEAN I got out because I couldn't stand any more of how he was hitting me and Chris who's 3. First he started on me, and then on Chris and that's when I left.

PAT I came out because he hit John who's 10 months, he was 9 months then.

SARA I got out after he raped me. He didn't give a damn. I hoped he was going to pack up and leave but he didn't..... he came pestering my mother, he took the baby but I got her back and the only reason I came in here because he wouldn't leave my family alone. He said "You've learnt me my lesson now" and I said "Yes 'til the next time", he said "No no there won't be a next time" he wants me to go back.

RITA Yes, Harry wants me to go back too but I've left him before and gone back. He's made a lot of promises and kept them for a whole week but then things have gone back to the way they were before. I gave him 3 chances and he's proved to me that in no way will he change and there's nothing he'll say or make me do now that will make me go back. Also I've got a lot of support here, through coming to the refuge, because you're with people who understand. You have to go through it to understand.

SARA My mother went through it and I've been on the rough end of it as well; he didn't only beat her, he beat us as well. My husband knows all that but he still does it. He said "If I wanted to hurt you that bad you'd be on the end of that" (he thumped in the side of the stairs because he wanted to kill someone).

JEAN But that's like a threat isn't it? Mine used to say things like that; he used to sit with a knife and tap it on his knee and say "Now who can I cut up" and look at me and I'd think he was going to do it. I think its worse sitting there waiting for it.

SARA You can't live like that.

? What happened when you came into the refuge.

SARA Huh: Peace. (laughter)

? But it can't be peaceful. You've got only one room each; sometimes families have to share one room.

SARA No, but peace of mind then.

RITA Yes, peace of mind, and support; people to understand and you can talk. I just felt relief when I came in.

SARA At least you know you're not in an atmosphere where you're going to get a swipe round the ear or a kick in the side.

RITA That's it and if you don't feel like having tea 'til six o'clock you needn't have it 'til then. You're not going to get a good hiding for not having it ready on time.

SARA And if you don't feel like having sex you can go to bed in peace. (laughter)

RITA You've got the backing of the support group who are going to help you with your problems. I think its a fantastic place because you've got that support and people like me. I've never had to stand up for myself before. I married at 16 straight from home and now I've got nobody, but I've got people here who'll see me through.

? How does the refuge run

JEAN We all do it really, everyone who lives here.

SARA Everybody.

RITA Like a team effort.

? Is it a good thing there is no warden.

JEAN That wouldn't be any good would it?

SARA No, no.

RITA You know that you're free. No one's going to tell you what to do and start pushing their weight around. That's really a good thing 'cos you've left that all behind.

SARA Its nice not having to explain where you've been or what you're doing. You're not overruled.

JEAN That's right.

? What happens when another battered woman phones up and wants to come in. Who answers the phone.

ALL Everyone of us.

SARA Yes anyone.

JEAN We usually ask the other battered women in the house.

SARA I ask the one who's been here longer 'cos they understand how it works.

RITA Normally what you do is count up everyone in the house and see if there's enough room: obviously you ask the other women as well and if there's room you take them. If not, you try to get them another refuge in the region. We never turn women away.

? You have only 5 rooms, 2 kitchens, 1 bathroom. How do you cope with sharing.

RITA We just use them when we need to.

SARA You just get on as you would at home.

RITA Only its better (laughter).

? How do you manage financially. (most women claim Supplementary Benefit, some continue working)

JEAN Its a case of having to.

? Are you better off in control of your own money.

RITA I wouldn't go as far as to say any of us were better off.

SARA Definitely not. Basically they think you can't manage without them but that makes you determined to prove them wrong.

RITA Right he said "You think you're on your own gives you long as you from other and the su make it.

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SARA Yes.

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RITA As you just so scare I just fallen into a

SARA O found i thought

JEAN C good. C ital, h had to When w he adm I used my bla nose.

Refuge run RITA Right when I saw Harry, he said "you don't really think you're going to make it on your own?" and that just gives you another little push to think I will make it. As long as you've got support from other women in the house and the support group you'll make it.

? What about the next move.

SARA Getting settled back in your old house or a new place. I'm going back and I'll put in for an exchange.

? Are you going back with an injunction.

(An injunction is a court order to prevent a man from molesting his wife, and can also demand that he move out of the marital home.)

SARA Yes.

? How are you treated by housing officials.

RITA They ask for proof of battery. They don't accept that if you're in a refuge you are involuntarily homeless.

? How do you feel about that.

RITA I think its wrong. I don't think they have any right to make you prove it.

SARA Its a hard thing to prove anyway.

RITA Well it is especially if like me you hadn't been to see a doctor or called in the police.

? Why didn't you go to a doctor.

RITA Because I know had I gone to the doctor and told him that I'd been beaten up, if Harry found out he'd have killed me. I didn't tell my

own mother.

SARA I didn't go to a doctor until after I'd been to a solicitor because I thought it might mean I couldn't get custody of my baby.

RITA As for the police, well you just don't because you're so scared of what will happen. I just used to lie and say I'd fallen down stairs or walked into a door.

SARA Oh. I told people and he found it a huge joke, he thought he was manly.

JEAN Oh. They think its so good. Once he put me in hospital, he put my neck out and I had to wear a special collar. When we went for a separation he admitted it so I had proof. I used to go to the doctor with my black eyes and my broken nose.

Unless you have got Proof of Battery you're not accepted as a priority housing need. (Some Housing Authorities accept the fact that a woman is in a refuge as adequate proof of battery. Councillors at a recent meeting with Cambridge Womens Aid agreed that women would be very very desperate to leave home to live in a refuge and are going to recommend to their prospective Housing Committees that this be accepted in Cambridge)



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! CAMBS REFUSE
For help or information
phone Cambridge 43706
60243

Erin Pizzey believes that if you've come from a violent relationship you need to be in a very chaotic place (her refuge is huge, overcrowded and the address is not kept secret, therefore men find it very quickly.

What do you feel about this?

SARA I disagree. You still like to do the homely things; its nice to have it quiet and organised.

JEAN I don't like the noise, but I like to see Chris in all the noise because when he was at home he wasn't allowed to run and jump around like he does here.

SARA He's just free.

JEAN Yes, he used to get a thump round the head for running about at home.

? How do you cope with all the kids.

SARA Oh. Shout! (laughter)

RITA Try to understand its difficult for them; mine don't understand why their dad's not here, 'cos he didn't hit me in front of them.

SARA Oh, that's different with my baby, she won't stay in the bedroom with him because that's where it all took place.

RITA We usually try to have the children in bed by half past seven to eight; that's about the only rule.

The younger children have only a back-yard to play in. There is no space for older children. They would really benefit from some organised external activities especially in the school holidays.

? Did having children cause extra stress on your relationship.

SARA No, no.

RITA In a lot of cases it begins while you're pregnant. It did in my case.

JEAN I remember Ralph hitting me in the stomach while I was pregnant; he seemed to resent me ever wanting a baby.

SARA The reason why he thumped me before I had my miscarriage he reckoned was he

couldn't stand the strain of whether we could afford it. But you talk about that before you're pregnant.

RITA Yes, they don't stop to think while they're having sex.

? Do you think of going back.

RITA What they really miss is you washing the shirts, cooking, ironing and going to bed with them when they want. Not you as a person.

JEAN Yes, that's right; when you leave and then go back they forget all they've promised. You're treated like a slave.

? What about the police and their dealings with domestic violence.

RITA Why, if a woman is really frightened, why can't they do anything to stop it. If it was my husband and another man they'd come and stop it.

SARA Yes, but its private matters in the home. . . . cont'd

BATTERED WOMEN TALKING

RITA OK, so its priavate but.....

JEAN They're going to wait until you're killed first.

RITA Exactly!

SARA OK if someone complains.

RITA But they still don't do a lot do they?

JEAN Not unless you press charges.

SARA You could be dead before your case comes up!

RITA Exactly. That's why you don't press charges.

SARA But the police don't have enough authority to

help you like that. If its a brawl on the streets, its different.

RITA I know but its wrong.

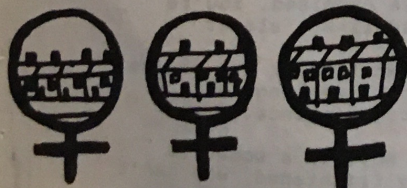
SARA Yes, its wrong. Why just because you're married to some-one can they do what they like in their own home?

RITA Just because you've got a piece of paper that says you're his wife doesn't give them the right to beat hell out of you.

25% OF VIOLENT CRIME IS WIFE ABUSE AND TAKES PLACE IN THE HOME.

If you're interested in joining the Womens Aid support group contact: DORE 43706 or AUDREY 60243. We meet weekly at the refuge so its open to women only.

However mixed or mens groups who'd like to organise external outings for the children of the refuge would be very welcome.



A REFUGE is a place where a battered woman (and her children) can come for safety and support. There she can decide what to do next. Women's Aid will provide information and help about the law, social security and housing. Women's Aid is a self-help organisation of women for women.

LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

The Divine Light Mission has recently moved to a comfortable house near the city centre. A coloured photograph of their leader the Maharaj Ji, beams from the front window. Pictures of him also cover every wall in the house, and each devotee wears a badge with his portrait on it; there are pictures of him in their car too. I didnt get as far as the toilet.

Not that they are likely to forget about Him for one moment, for on joining the group, it seems that there is not much else to do but think about Him. Every night they gather in the front room to hold a meeting.

The room is sparsely furnished, with floof cushions, and there is one large armchair covered in blue silk with a white flower placed on the seat. This chair is waiting for the visiting posterior of Him. I realised this just in time before I was about to sit on it....so I settled down on the floor and looked at the group around me. They all wore rapt, happy expressions and sometimes laughed for no reason that I could understand; it was as if everyone was stoned except me. One of the group recounted her experiences of the day, and the others nodded in agreement and broke into delighted chuckles.

All day, apparently, she had been thinking about Him. Once she had had problems, with her job, with relationships, but now all these were solved by devoting her life to Him.

Another speaker said, I used to worry about death but now I know that I will never die. The problems of the world used to depress me, but they dont concern me now.

After a song it was question time. What did the Divine Light Mission do to keep others I asked? Convert them. Eventually, they hope to convert everyone in the world. They are not interested in politics, or changing the world. In their world there are no jobs, no pressures and.... no sex. On joining the Divine Light, you not only give up all your worries, but for some all their possessions aswell.. No more records, T.V. or radio or books. But you do get lots of pictures of Him- they have boxes and boxes of them, all in gilt frames, in the next room. He is the living God of the 20th century. He has certainly not turned his back on modern living, however. Not for

him a simple dwelling on the top of a mountain, but a huge empire consisting of many properties (a home in Malibu, another in Ruislip), fast cars and his own private plane.

His devotees have carried their loyalty to him to the point of beating up and hospitalising an unbeliever who pushed a custard pie into His face. After looking at His face all evening in one direction or another, I think I can understand and even feel a certain amount of sympathy with this crude gesture.

As I left, crippled with cramp, I certainly felt a little confused. These people undoubtedly do glow with happiness... How is it done? Mass hypnosis? Self hypnosis? Group brainwashing? It is impossible to tell. Perhaps we do have happiness centres in our brains, which can be switched on to permanent. Does the effect wear off with time? The followers that I talked to all said that before joining the Divine Light they had found life unbearable or hit rock bottom.

They could have turned to hard drugs or booze -- but they turned to religion. If one finds the pressures of life too hard to bear, then this alternative certainly removes fear, anxiety, excitement, challenge, initiative and creativity. Perpetual happiness.

At what price?

I passed the window as I stepped out into the night. From his frame, the Maharaj Ji gazed calmly back at me. I almost expected him to wink.

Marjorie White.

OTHERS

British Society for Social Responsibility in Science - Computer Group c/o Nick Gill, 5 Halifax Road.

Politics of Food Group. Jonathan Jones, 153 Huntingdon Road. C. 64472.

Diabetics Association. Mr. I Hone, 3 Limes Close, Littleport, Cambs. Work: Ely 2371 ex 288.

Buddhist Society. Jane Giddings, 17 Belvoir Road. C. 60325.

The Free School, Sue Rothenberg, 65 Victoria Road. C. 52813.

Jewish Residents Assn., Sharon Blaukopf, 56 Perne Avenue.

Society for Promoting Pagan Knowledge. 'Pagan Knot' c/o PO Box 146, Finchfield, Braintree, Essex. Meets at the Mitre Pub, Bridge Street. 8 pm onwards last Wednesday of the month.

St. Matthews Neighbourhood Assn. Roy Hammas, 71 Gwydir Street, C. 66900.

Working Weekends on Organic Farms. (WWOF) Helen Seal, 22 Sleaford Street. C. 50857.

Music Workshop. For anyone interested in music, with or without musical experience. Contact Ross Lorraine, 17 Milford Street. C. 68647.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Home Insulation Project to be axed

The Home Insulation Project run by Friends of the Earth and funded by the Government's STEP* programme will be yet another victim of the conservative's sweeping cuts. The project aims to help elderly and disabled people, single-parent families and low income groups. It provides a labour free loft insulation, draught-proofing and plastic-sheet double glazing service, and in February (Mid Winter!) it is to be axed. Under the Government's Home Insulation Grant scheme whereby £50 or 2/3rds of the cost of loft insulation can be claimed back by applicants living in private houses. Council tenants are having to wait until the council gets round to them.....

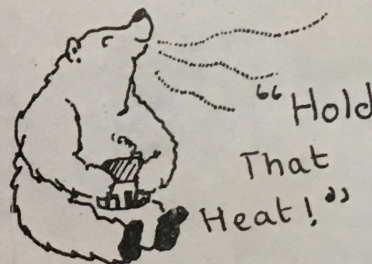
Low Income Groups

Frustratingly many of the Project's applicants are council tenants whom they are unable to help. They often fall into the low income groups and have inefficient heating systems such as electric fires and need insulating often more urgently than private house dwellers. In addition the Department of energy is considering abolishing the electrical discount scheme which benefits needy families, and electricity prices are going up soon.



Now (1979-80 financial year) the Government is proposing to include the public/council housing sector into the scheme. There is a limited £23 million allocated for insulating grants, so the first people to apply are those who can be assured of being helped. This figure remains the same as last year when only private dwellers could apply, and materials and labour prices have risen.

According to the National Consumer Council, families lower down the social scale have claimed 19% of grants made, although they represent 35% of the householders with non-insulated lofts. Those at the upper end of the scale claimed 16% and account for 10% of non-insulated lofts. Only projects such as these, by providing free labour can fully ensure that low-income groups can utilise and fully implement the grant scheme, and thereby attack the great energy losses. If the £1500 million which the Government intend to spend on Torness and Heysham Nuclear Power stations was spent on energy conservation, the amount of electricity which would be generated could be saved severaltimes over. To put this amount of money into perspective, it is equivalent to £80 for every house in Great Britain.



If anyone is interested (or knows someone, a friend, a neighbour perhaps) who might benefit from the Home Insulation Project (while it still lasts!) then contact Friends of the Earth at the Bath House, Gwydir St. or phone 312800. The people, there will arrange the Grant Application, undertake a free survey and do the actual

work charging for materials only. They also advise, and sell materials to to DIY people. Next issue- How to insulate your house.

Nicola Stubbs

* ManPower Services Commissins
Special Temporary Employmnet
Scheme.

October 20th
WARM EVENT
Insulation + Anti Nuclear
Exhibition. At the Bath House

You can buy GRAPEVINE at the following shops:
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 46 Hills Road
 Norfolk St Newsagents

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Thanks to all these shops
 for stocking the magazine

"PERSONS UNKNOWN"

A booklet giving the facts behind the trial taking place at the Old Bailey is now available at Grapevine Bookshop.

ST. PAUL'S PLAYCENTRE

requires PLAYLEADER at St. Matthew's School. After school, 3-6p.m. Ring 60421, 612922 evngs, urgently.

CAMBRIDGE ANTI APART-HEID GROUP

is active in Cambridge and would welcome new members - anyone interested contact: Nicky Blandford, 25 Chedworth st, 356430; or Hilary Perraton, 247 Hills Road.

STOP PRESS

Further to the article on empty property owned by the Co-op -: At a hearing in the County Court on Thursday 20th September, the case against the two harmless people accused of criminal damage was adjourned until November 2nd. The Co-op are obviously intent on prosecuting them for trying to live in one of their empty houses.

Pedal Power

Cambridge FOE's cycling campaign is getting underway again with lots of enthusiasm and ideas -for publicity stunts, cycleway proposals, direct action and political pressure. The backbone of the campaign will be the community cycle workshop, currently in limbo because of problems with its location but with lots of potential- especially now that we have had plenty of old bikes, tools and spares donated. Budding mechanics who want to help rebuild these to raise cash should contact Ian at FOE (The Bath House 312800). You don't need experience, just enthusiasm.

Cambridge has the highest proportion of cyclists in the country,

but we get a very bad deal. It is quite feasible to banish the car entirely from this city- all it takes is your support.

Claimants' Union News

The CU have now moved our Wednesday afternoon sessions back into our rebuilt office in the Bath House. With more people involved we are now able to put greater energy into campaigns and expansion but we still need help, especially with leafleting. The new benefit rates (see right) come in in November and we still have almost 1000 leaflets with the old rates on! So roll up all ye radical claimants! We need your help.

CU 'phone no 69986.
 NB. Please DO NOT use the numbers in the Directory of Groups.

Supplementary Benefit Rates

	Existing ordinary weekly rate	Existing long-term weekly rate	New ordinary weekly rate from Nov. 1979	New long-term weekly rate from Nov. 1979
Ordinary scale:				
For the parent (if householder)	£15.55	£19.90	£18.30	£23.70
Any other person aged:				
18 and over	£12.45	£15.95	£14.65	£18.95
16-17 years	9.55		11.25	
13-15 years	7.95		9.35	
11-12 years	6.55		7.70	
5-10 years	5.30		6.25	
Under 5 years	4.40		5.20	
Non-householder rent allowance				
			Existing weekly rate	Proposed weekly rate
			£ 1.45	£ 1.70
Attendance requirements:				
Higher rate			£15.60	£18.60
Lower rate			10.40	12.40
Discretionary additions to supplementary benefit:				
Heating additions			£ .85	£ .95
			1.70	1.90
			2.55	2.85
Dietary additions				
			.95	1.05
			2.25	2.50